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- 10. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 9, wherein said first jaw engaging portion is positioned on a first side of said tissue cutting portion, and wherein said adjustable second jaw engaging portion is positioned on a second side of said tissue cutting portion.
- 11. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a handle; and
  - a shaft extending from said handle, wherein said end effector extends from said shaft.
  - 12. A surgical instrument assembly, comprising: an end effector, comprising:
    - a first jaw comprising a first tissue engaging surface;
    - a second jaw comprising a second tissue engaging surface, wherein said second jaw is movable relative to said first jaw between an open position and a clamped position; and
    - a staple cartridge; and
  - a firing system configured to eject staples from said staple cartridge, comprising:
    - a first jaw engaging portion configured to engage said first jaw; and
    - a compliant second jaw engaging portion configured to engage said second jaw, wherein said compliant second jaw engaging portion is configured to position 25 said second tissue engaging surface relative to said first tissue engaging surface, and wherein said compliant second jaw engaging portion is movable relative to said first jaw engaging portion to automatically accommodate different distances between said first jaw engaging portion and said compliant second jaw engaging portion.
- 13. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 12, wherein said first jaw engaging portion comprises a first projection, and wherein said compliant second jaw engaging portion 35 comprises a second projection.
- 14. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 13, wherein said first jaw comprises a first jaw contacting surface and said second jaw comprises a second jaw positioning surface, wherein said first projection is configured to slidably engage 40 said first jaw contacting surface, and wherein said second projection is configured to slidably engage said second jaw positioning surface.
- 15. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 12, wherein the position of said compliant second jaw engaging portion 45 relative to said first jaw engaging portion is dynamically responsive to compressive loads applied to said second jaw.
- 16. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 12, further comprising a slit defined between said first jaw engaging portion and said compliant second jaw engaging portion.
- 17. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 12, wherein said firing system further comprises a tissue cutting portion.
- **18**. The surgical instrument assembly of claim **12**, further comprising:
  - a handle; and
  - a shaft extending from said handle, wherein said end effector extends from said shaft.
  - 19. A surgical instrument assembly, comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a shaft extending from said handle;
  - an end effector, comprising:
    - a proximal end extending from said shaft;
    - a distal end positioned opposite said proximal end;

- a first jaw;
- a second jaw movable relative to said first jaw, wherein said second jaw is movable between an open position and a clamped position, and wherein a tissue gap is defined between said first jaw and said second jaw when said second jaw is in said clamped position; and a staple cartridge; and
- a firing system movable toward said distal end to deploy staples from said staple cartridge, comprising:
  - a first portion movable relative to said first jaw; and
  - a dynamic second portion movable relative to said second jaw, wherein said dynamic second portion is movable relative to said first portion to provide a changeable distance between said first portion and said dynamic second portion.
- 20. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 19, wherein said first jaw comprises a first jaw contacting surface and said second jaw comprises a second jaw positioning surface, wherein said first portion is configured to slidably engage said first jaw contacting surface, and wherein said dynamic second portion is configured to slidably engage said second jaw positioning surface to position said second jaw relative to said first jaw.
- 21. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 19, wherein the position of said dynamic second portion relative to said first portion is dynamically responsive to compressive loads applied to said second jaw.
  - **22**. A surgical instrument assembly, comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a shaft extending from said handle;
  - an end effector extending from said shaft, comprising:
    - a first jaw; and
    - a second jaw, wherein said second jaw is movable relative to said first jaw between an open position and a clamped position, and wherein a tissue gap is defined between said first jaw and said second jaw when said second jaw is in said clamped position; and
  - a firing system, comprising:
    - a first jaw engaging portion configured to engage said first jaw; and
    - a movable tissue gap setting portion, wherein said movable tissue gap setting portion is self-adjustable relative to said first jaw engaging portion to accommodate a first tissue gap comprising a first distance defined between said first jaw and said second jaw and a second tissue gap comprising a second distance defined between said first jaw and said second jaw, and wherein said first distance is different than said second distance.
- 23. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 22, wherein the position of said moveable tissue gap setting portion relative to said first jaw engaging portion is dynamically responsive to compressive loads applied to said second jaw.
- 24. The surgical instrument assembly of claim 22, wherein said second jaw comprises an anvil, wherein said anvil is configured to deform staples to a first deformed height when said second jaw is positioned at said first distance, wherein said anvil is configured to deform staples to a second deformed height when said second jaw is positioned at said second distance, and wherein said first deformed height is different than said second deformed height.

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